

# ALASKA SUPREME COURT

Justices					
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Opinion Partners	✓			✓	
Dissenting Minority	✓			✓	
Determining Majority		✓	✓		✓
Lone Dissenter			✓		

## SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of cases: **138**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **92.0% (127)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Daniel Winfree (20)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **61**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **2**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Craig Stowers (1) and Justice Daniel Winfree (1)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **11**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Craig Stowers (4)**

## COURT CONTENTION

### Opinion partners/dissenting minority

The Alaska Supreme Court decided one case by split decision in 2020. In that case, Justices Winfree and Carney were in the dissent. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Carney recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score and Justice Winfree recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score.

### Determining majority

In the one case decided by split decision, Justices Bolger, Maassen, and Stowers were in the majority. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study,

Justice Bolger recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, Justice Stowers recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, and Justice Maassen recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score.

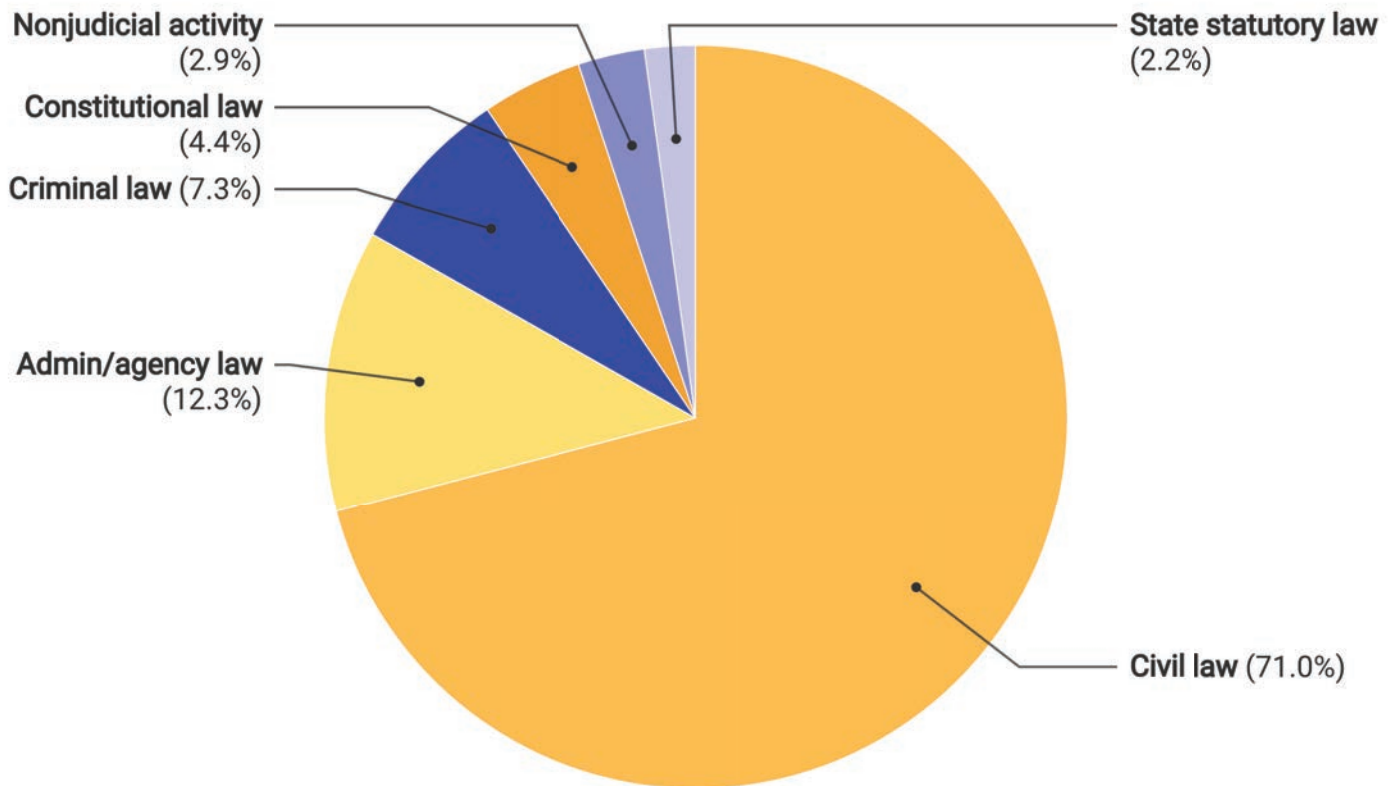
### **Lone dissenter**

In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in eight cases before the Alaska Supreme Court. Justice Stowers was a lone dissenter in four of those cases.

### **COURT JURISDICTION**

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction to review the decisions reached by lower courts within the state. The Court is required to accept appeals from previous decisions made by any Alaska Superior Court judge regarding civil issues, and including cases that originated in administrative agencies. The court has the option to hear appeals for criminal cases or petitions. In order for a criminal appeal to be heard, the appropriate appeals court must certify that the case involves a significant question of constitutional law, or it must be an issue of substantial public interest. The Supreme Court can choose whether or not to accept petitions of hearing from the lower courts on civil or criminal matters. The court may also review non-final decisions by the superior court in both civil and criminal cases. The court also hears other matters including bar admission, attorney discipline, and state law questions raised in United States federal courts. The Court also has a supervisory role over the other courts in the state and is charged with making rules governing administration, practice, and procedure in all courts. The court hears cases on a monthly basis in Anchorage, approximately quarterly in Fairbanks and Juneau, and as needed in other Alaska communities. The court prefers to hear arguments in the city where the case was heard in the trial court.

## Case types decided by Alaska Supreme Court, 2020










**BALLOT**PEDIA

The most common case category heard by the Alaska Supreme Court in 2020 was civil law. Of the 138 cases it heard, 98 were civil cases, or 71.0 percent of its caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were administrative law cases. An admin/agency law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. The Alaska Supreme Court heard 17 admin/agency cases in 2020, or 12.3 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common case that reached the court were criminal law cases. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The Alaska Supreme Court heard 10 criminal cases in 2020, or 7.2 percent of its total caseload for the year.

# ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

Justices	 Robert Brutinel	 Andrew W. Gould	 Ann Timmer	 Clint Bolick	 John Lopez IV	 James P. Beene	 Bill Montgomery
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Indeterminate	Mild Republican	Strong Republican	Mild Republican	Strong Republican
Opinion Partners							
Dissenting Minority							
Determining Majority	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lone Dissenter				✓			

## SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of justices: **7**
- ▶ Number of cases: **52**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **92.3% (48)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Brutinel (13)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **0**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **4**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Bolick (3)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **5**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Bolick (2)**

## COURT CONTENTION

### Opinion partners

In 2020, no justices on the Arizona Supreme Court allied in dissent.

### Dissenting minority/determining majority

In 2020, the Arizona Supreme Court did not decide any case by split decision.

### Lone dissenter

Justice Bolick departed from the majority more frequently than any justice on